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[Mattoon First Christian Church](#)

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From the Pastor's Heart

Two Challenges

As we pause and ponder the amazing gift that God has given us at Christmas time, we must ask what I can do to help others receive the gift of Jesus.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born, lived and loved, and gave His life on Calvary that we could have hope in a world that is very dark. Jesus gave us the church to stand in the gap between good and evil. FCC is accomplishing the mission the Lord has given.

What can we do to help complete the mission before Christ returns?

We all have been given three things we can give to the Lord. We have time, talent, and treasure. All three fulfill what the Apostle Paul describes as sacrificial.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices (Greek- logizomai—that which is reasonable) act of worship. Romans 12:1

In regard to time, talent, and treasure what is reasonable? Is ten percent reasonable? In examining our giving (never seeing names only giving units) it seems we need to search our hearts on this matter.

Paul is saying true worship is sacrificial. Is your giving of time, talent, and treasure sacrificial or is it casual?

On December the 9th, I would like to challenge you to bring a Christmas Offering that will be used to further God's work at Little Galilee Christian Camp in Clinton, Illinois. Many of our youth have attended this camp and some have accepted Christ through the teaching and worship there.

I would also like to challenge you to help with our church's deficit which is currently around \$60,000. For some, this might involve savings or investments and for most this will involve a check. All checks must be postmarked by December 31st to count on the 2018 budget.

Please know that God blesses the giver that gives from the heart of worship.

Second challenge is to our board. If there is a surplus to our budget at the year's end, designate the overage to the trustees to be earmarked for our HVAC (heating and air system.) This I believe is reasonable.

May God Bless You and Keep You,
Pastor Steve Hayes



Thank you to everyone for the prayers, cards, and food. The Wishard family is blessed to be a part of this church family.
Scott and Dolo Wishard

Thank you to those who donated cookies, volunteered for the event and brought Christmas items for the Cookie Walk.
Charlotte Castle

Thank you to the ladies who decorated the tables for the Ladies' Night Out. All the tables looked great.
Jan Kepley

The Christmas Offering will go to construction needs at Little Galilee Christian Camp. This is the church camp we send our young people to each year and where many of them accepted Christ. The camp is currently updating and enlarging the Dining Hall which was built in 1955. We will collect the Christmas Offering on Sunday, December 9th. There are Christmas Offering Envelopes in your envelope box or memo "Christmas" on your regular envelope.



Christmas Schedule

December 9th

Christmas Musical, 8:30 and 10:30 am

December 16th

Wassail and

Reception/Card Shower for Richard Eident, 9:30 am

December 24th

Christmas Eve Service, 5:30 pm



POINSETTIA DONATIONS

The church would be happy to have a poinsettia in the sanctuary on Christmas Sunday in memory of your loved ones.

Call the church office by noon on

Tuesday, December 18th with the information as you want it to appear in the bulletin. Please have your plant here by noon on Friday, December 21st and take it home after the Christmas Eve Service.

2019 Offering Envelopes

The 2019 Offering Envelopes are available to pick up in the narthex. In these boxes there are no monthly special envelopes. If there is something special you wish to donate to... just clearly mark it on your regular weekly envelope.

If you want Offering Envelopes and don't see a box for you, please contact Robin in the church office.



The Church Board approved the 2019 Budget at the November Board Meeting. Copies of the Budget are available in the narthex.

Church Directories

The new Picture Directories are available for pick up in the narthex. If your photo is included in the directory you will receive 1 directory per family. There is a sheet in the narthex with names listed of people in the directory, please mark off your name when you pick up your directory. Some extra directories were purchased for those who did not get a picture included in the directory and would like one. Please add your name at the end of the list if you pick one up.

Church Life

Saturday, December 8

1 pm Christmas Musical Practice

Sunday, December 9

8:30 am Traditional Worship/Christmas Musical

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship/Christmas Musical

5 pm F/R Group Meeting

Monday, December 10

10 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Trustees' Meeting

7 pm Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 11

7 am Prayer Time

6 pm Bible Journaling

Wednesday, December 12

No Crafts R Us Group

5 pm Bell Choir Practice

6 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program (last one till Jan. 9th)

No Choir Practice

Thursday, December 13

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Sunday, December 16

8:30 am Traditional Worship

9:30 am Wassail/Reception for Richard in Campbell Hall

10:30 am Contemporary Worship

5 pm F/R Christmas Party

Monday, December 17

10 am Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 18

7 am Prayer Time

6 pm Bible Journaling

Wednesday, December 19

No "Crafts Are Us" Group

5 pm Bell Choir Practice

No Mid-Week Outlet Program

6 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 20

6 pm Praise Team Practice



Newly Elected

The following people were elected for 3 year terms at the Congregational Meeting on November 18th:

Elders

Mike Brand

Tim Buford

Michelle Mathews

Deacons

Max Betty

Jack Browning

Dennis Booker

Dan Cunningham

Dennis Goings

Don Inman

Jack Little

Bud Miller

Gene Swearingen

Deaconesses

Dawn Albin

Cheryl Ballinger

Lisa Ballinger

Arlen Betty

Peggy Bolin

Donica Brand

Debi Buford

Charlotte Castle

Katrina Fine

Linda Fleming

Judy Hatfield

Beth Leach

Sandy Pierce

Dianne Porter

Vicki Rauwolf

Jeannie Swearingen

Candy Tate

Cindy Temple

Kay White

Dolo Wishard

Trustees

Steve Huckaba

Charlotte Castle

Serving Communion

Sunday, December 9

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Denny Booker, Bud Miller, Gene Swearingen, Colin VanDeventer

10:30 am— Max Betty, Donica Brand, Dennis Goings, Jeff Maninfior

Sunday, December 16

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Jack Browning, Tim Buford, Dan Cunningham, Tom Dickerson

10:30 am— Amy Maninfior, Nick Maninfior, Bob Morgan, Josh Recker

Giving and Expense Totals

November 25th General Giving: \$4,799.01

December 2nd General Giving: \$7,815.00

Income Needed Weekly to Meet Budget: \$7,005.98

Year to Date Income verses Expenses: \$-60,485.25

	<p>Building Fund balance: \$340,494.08</p>
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New Members

We welcome Jerry and Rae Christensen to First Christian. They joined church on December 2nd and Rae was baptized on December 3rd.

Church Attendance

Nov. 25th — Traditional: 120, Contemporary: 100 = 220

Dec. 2nd — Traditional: 112, Contemporary: 105 = 217